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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Programme budget implications of draft resolution IX contained in A/70/23

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraphs 18 and 19 of draft resolution IX contained in A/70/23, the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2015, in which the programme of work for 2016 is outlined, in particular the Pacific regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to review and augment the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including especially its resolution 69/107, paragraph 7.

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II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (see A/70/6 (Sect. 2)).

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. It is anticipated that the request for the annual visiting mission to one of the territories, contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of draft resolution IX contained in A/70/23, would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of $269,000 for the biennium 2016-2017 for the following activities:

(a) Travel of four representatives and four staff of the Committee secretariat to the meetings in 2016 and 2017 (one in the Caribbean region and one in the Pacific region) ($85,000);

(b) Provision of six local interpreters for the meetings in 2016 and 2017 ($60,000);

(c) Documentation services for the preparation of one post-session document (10,700 words) in six languages each for 2016 and 2017 ($124,000).

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

4. Additional requirements, including conference servicing in the amount of $269,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to implement the additional activities.

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

5. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the activities requested in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the draft resolution. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional recurrent resources in the amount of $269,000 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017.

VI. Contingency fund

6. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

7. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution IX contained in A/70/23, additional resource requirements in the amount of $269,000 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The amount of $269,000 would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the General Assembly.**